

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AGR-10 AID-05 EB-07 AF-06 ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12

NEA-10 COME-00 ISO-00 TRSE-00 OIC-02 PA-02 PRS-01

USIA-15 OMB-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 SP-02

ABF-01 /114 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3464

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FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNWFP FAO

SUBJ: 28TH SESSION INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE OF WORLD
FOOD PROGRAM (WFP/IEC) SEPTEMBER 29 - OCTOBER 3, 1975;
FOURTH DAY, OCTOBER 2

REF: ROME 14249

SUMMARY - THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2 DISCUSSIONS WENT WELL IN BOTH
PLENARY AND BUDGETARY SESSION SO FIGC. MAJORITY OF DISCUSSION
IN PLENARY CONCENTRATED ON RECONSTITUTED IGC AS NEW
COMMITTEE ON FOOD AID PROGRAM AND POLICY. NEW COMMITTEE
SCHEDULED TO MEET APRIL 26 - MAY 7 WHERE SOME ISSUES ON RULES
AND ELIGIBILITY FOR ASSISTANCE MAY ARISE. BUDGET COMMITTEE
AGREED ON FINISHING TOUCHES EMERGENCY UNIT AND SUCCEEDED
IN CUTTING SOME NEW POSTS. WFP WILL PROCEED WITH FAO SECRETARIAT
ON COMPUTERIZED SYSTEM AND WILL STRENGTHEN PROCEDURES ON USE
OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE SAVINGS. END SUMMARY.

1. THURSDAY PLENARY SESSION CONFINED TO ITEM 6, ACTION
OF INTEREST TO PROGRAMME SINCE LAST SESSION AND COOPERATION
WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND PROGRAMMES; AND ITEM 13,
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TRANSPORTATION. ALTHOUGH ITEM 6 INVOLVED NUMBER OF SUBJECTS

INCLUDING FOOD ELEMENT IN 7TH SPECIAL SESSION AND PROPOSALS TO REFORM UN SYSTEM, DISCUSSION CONCERNED PRIMARILY PLANS FOR FIRST MEETING OF IGC RECONSTITUTED AS COMMITTEE ON FOOD AID PROGRAM AND POLICY (CFA) WHICH NOW SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 26-MAY 7. DISCUSSION NON-CONTROVERSIAL, BUT SEVERAL MEMBERS INDICATED DESIRE TO CONSIDER SOME MODIFICATION IN RULES AT THAT MEETING.

2. ASSUMING FAO CONFERENCE PASSES SOLUTION ON CFA, PRESENT PLAN IS THAT FAO COUNCIL ON NOVEMBER 28 WILL ELECT 4 MEMBERS TO REPLACE THOSE WHOSE TERMS EXPIRE END OF DECEMBER, PLUS 3 NEW ONES, AS PROVIDED IN RESOLUTION. SOMEWHAT SIMILAR ECOSOC ACTION CONTEMPLATED AND UNGA MUST APPROVE RESOLUTION. CFA THEN WOULD BE CONSTITUTED. IGC COMMITTEE AGREED THAT CFA SHOULD MEET APRIL 26.

3. DRAFT AGENDA FOR CFA APRIL MEETING MADE IT QUITE APPARENT THAT ONE WEEK INSUFFICIENT TIME UNLESS PARALLEL COMMITTEE AND PLENARY SESSIONS HELD. IGC COMMITTEE, WHILE NOT OF ONE MIND DID NOT FAVOR PARALLEL MEETINGS. FINALLY AGREED TO SCHEDULE MEETING FOR TWO WEEKS APRIL 26 TO MAY 7. DRAFT AGENDA REVISED ONLY SLIGHTLY.

4. ONLY REAL DIFFERENCE OF OPINION WAS OVER WHETHER ANY DESIRED/ PROPOSED CHANGES IN RULES AND PROCEDURES SHOULD BE DISCUSSED AT FIRST SESSION. CONCLUSION WAS THAT SECRETARIAT WOULD PUT UP A PAPER AND CFA COULD DECIDE WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT. PRESSURE FOR DISCUSSION AT MEETING COMES FROM SWEDEN AND SOME DEVELOPPING COUNTRIES. SWEDEN INDICATED DESIRE TO ADOPT UNDP RULES ON ELIGIBILITY FOR ASSISTANCE (SEPTEL).

5. BUDGETARY SUB-COMMITTEE (BSC) FINISHED CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA ITEMS 15-19. FINISHING TOUCHES WERE PUT ON DECISION RE EMERGENCY UNIT WITH AGREEMENT THAT IT BE SET UP AS RECOMMENDED BY FINANCE COMMITTEE (FC).... BSC QUICKLY RULED AGAINST NEW DEPUTY DIRECTOR AND SECRETARY POSTS IN EXTERNAL RELATIONS, IN LINE WITH RECOMMENDATION OF FC AND ACABQ. TWO MEMBERS OBJECTED TO NEW POSTS OF DIRECTOR FOR FIELD INSPECTION AND TRAINING AND SECRETARY IN OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AND SUCCEEDED UNCLASSIFIED

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IN REDUCING RANK OF DIRECTOR FROM D-1 TO P-5. ACABQ RECOMMENDATION THAT AMOUNT OF DLR\$2,000 BUDGETED FOR UN STAFF SERVICES BE ELIMINATED WAS REJECTED FOLLOWING SECRETARIAL APPEAL AND LENGTHY DISCUSSION. NO OTHER BUDGET REDUCTIONS WERE CONSIDERED. NEW POSITIONS FINALLY AUTHORIZED CAME TO FOUR PROFESSIONALS AND 5 GS.

6. QUESTION WAS RAISED ABOUT STATUS OF COMPUTERIZED SHIPPING

INFO SYSTEM, PLEDGE RECORDS, AND PROGRAM-WIDE MANAGEMENT
INFO SYSTEM. SECRETARIAT EXPLAINED THAT STEPS WERE UNDER WAY
TO ENGAGE OUTSIDE CONSULTANT TO PUT SHIPPING INFO AND PLEDGE
RECORDS SYSTEM INTO FULL OPERATION, AND WFP NEEDED
TO BE GIVEN AUTHORITY.

7. UNDER AUDITED ACCOUNTS USDEL ASKED FOR EXPLANATION OF
LARGE ANNUAL GROWTH OF CASH HOLDINGS. SECRETARIAT RESPONDED
THAT CASH BALANCE AT END 1974 INCLUDED ABOUT \$10 MILLION
ADVANCE PAYMENT AGAINST 1975-76 PLEDGE, AND MUCH OF REMAINDER
OF BALANCE WAS COMMITTED TO SPECIFIC DISBURSEMENTS. UNDER
ANNUAL REPORT ON BUDGETARY PERFORMANCE USDEL RAISED QUESTION
OF RECORD OF SEVERAL DISBURSEMENTS FROM CURRENCY EXCHANGE
SAVINGS. BSC AGREED TO STRENGTHEN ADMONITION IN LATEST
FC REPORT TO EFFECT THAT EXCHANGE SAVINGS SHOULD BE RETAINED
IN SEPARATE RESERVE FUND TO COMPENSATE POSSIBLE CURRENCY
LOSSES, AND ANY OTHER DISBURSEMENTS THEREFROM SHOULD BE SPECIFICALLY
AUTHORIZED BY FC AND IGC. VOLPE

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